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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of

Docket No: Q77403

Kenji SERA, et al.

Appln. No.: 10/657,196

Group Art Unit: 2813

Confirmation No.: 1621

Examiner: Thanhha S. PHAM

Filed: September 9, 2003

For: THIN FILM SEMICONDUCTOR DEVICE AND MANUFACTURING METHOD

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
UNDER 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.97 and 1.98

MAIL STOP AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. § 1.56, Applicant hereby notifies the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office of the documents which are listed on the attached PTO/SB/08 A & B (modified) form and listed herein and which the Examiner may deem material to patentability of the claims of the above-identified application.

1. United States Patent Application Publication No. 2001/0035774, published November 1, 2001.
2. United States Patent No. 4,872,010, issued October 3, 1989.
3. United States Patent No. 6,306,709, issued October 23, 2001.
4. United States Patent No. 6,191,435, issued February 20, 2001.
5. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 8-264798, published October 11, 1996 (with English abstract), which corresponds to United States Patent No. 6,353,244, issued March 5, 2002.
6. United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0088971, published July 11, 2002.

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

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Atty. Docket No.: Q77403

7. United States Patent No. 6,190,952, issued February 20, 2001.
8. European Patent Application Publication No. 0 614 226, published September 7, 1994.
9. United States Patent No. 6,034,563, issued March 7, 2000.
10. United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0096723, published July 25, 2002.
11. European Patent Application Publication No. 1 217 662, published June 26, 2002.
12. United States Patent No. 6,215,159, issued April 10, 2001.
13. European Patent Application Publication No. 0 690 510, published January 3, 1996.
14. European Patent Application Publication No. 0 809 362, published November 26, 1997.
15. United States Patent No. 5,889,291, issued March 30, 1999.
16. United States Patent No. 4,446,390, issued May 1, 1984.
17. United States Patent Application Publication No. 2002/0098635, published July 25, 2002.
18. United States Patent No. 5,461,713, issued October 24, 1995.
19. United States Patent No. 5,808,934, issued September 15, 1998.
20. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 61-100010, published May 19, 1986 (with English abstract).
21. European Patent Application Publication No. 1 091 491, published April 11, 2001.
22. Japanese Patent Application Publication No. 7-29381, published January 31, 1995 (with English abstract).
23. United States Patent No. 5,162,681, issued November 10, 1992.
24. United States Patent No. 6,246,221, issued June 12, 2001.

One copy of each of the listed documents is submitted herewith, except for the U.S. patents and U.S. patent publications.

The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the later of three months from the application's filing date and the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, but

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

U.S. Appln. No.: 10/657,196

Atty. Docket No.: Q77403

before a Final Office Action, Notice of Allowance, or an action that otherwise closes prosecution in the application (whichever is earlier), and therefore Applicant is filing concurrently herewith a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e). No fee under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17(p) is required.

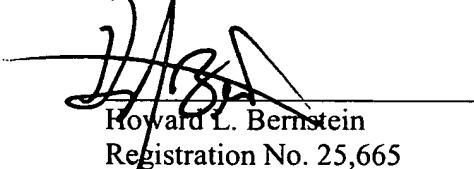
The present Information Disclosure Statement is being filed thirty days or fewer from the communication from a foreign patent office and a Statement Under 37 C.F.R. § 1.704(d) is attached.

In compliance with the concise explanation requirement under 37 C.F.R. § 1.98(a)(3) for foreign language documents, Applicant encloses herewith a copy of a corresponding European Search Report, dated August 25, 2006, which cites such documents and indicates the degree for relevance found by the foreign office.

The submission of the listed documents is not intended as an admission that any such document constitutes prior art against the claims of the present application. Applicant does not waive any right to take any action that would be appropriate to antedate or otherwise remove any listed document as a competent reference against the claims of the present application.

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,


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WASHINGTON OFFICE
23373
CUSTOMER NUMBER

Date: September 19, 2006

Substitute for Form 1449 A & B/PTO				Complete if Known		
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT				Application Number		10/657,196
(use as many sheets as necessary)				Confirmation Number		1621
				Filing Date		September 9, 2003
				First Named Inventor		Kenji SERA
				Art Unit		2813
				Examiner Name		Thanhha S. PHAM
Sheet	1	of	1	Attorney Docket Number	Q77403	

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Document Number		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Number	Kind Code ² (if known)		
		US 2001/0035774	A1	11-01-2001	Kotani
		US 4,872,010	A	10-03-1989	Larson et al.
		US 6,306,709	B1	10-23-2001	Miyagi et al.
		US 6,191,435	B1	02-20-2001	Inoue
		US 6,353,244	B1	03-05-2002	Yamazaki et al.
		US 2002/0088971	A1	07-11-2002	Tezuka et al.
		US 6,190,952	B1	02-20-2001	Xiang et al.
		US 6,034,563	A	03-07-2000	Mashiko
		US 2002/0096723	A1	07-25-2002	Awaka
		US 6,215,159	B1	04-10-2001	Fujita et al.
		US 5,889,291	A	03-30-1999	Koyama et al.
		US 4,446,390	A	05-01-1984	Alaspa
		US 2002/0098635	A1	07-25-2002	Zhang et al.
		US 5,461,713	A	10-24-1995	Pascucci
		US 5,808,934	A	09-15-1998	Kubo et al.
		US 5,162,681	A	11-10-1992	Lee
		US 6,246,221	B1	06-12-2001	Xi

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS					
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Foreign Patent Document		Publication Date MM-DD-YYYY	Name of Patentee or Applicant of Cited Document
		Country Code ³	Number ⁴		
		JP	8-264798	A	10-11-1996
		EP	0 614 226	A1	Texas Instruments Incorporated
		EP	1 217 662	A1	Universite Catholique de Louvain
		EP	0 690 510	A1	Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp
		EP	0 809 362	A2	Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp
		JP	61-100010	A	Sony Corp
		EP	1 091 491	A1	Infineon Technologies AG
		JP	7-29381	A	Oki Electric Ind Co Ltd

NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS				
Examiner Initials*	Cite No. ¹	Include name of the author (in CAPITAL LETTERS), title of the article (when appropriate), title of the item (book, magazine, journal, serial, symposium, catalog, etc.), date, page(s), volume-issue number(s), publisher, city, and/or country where published.		Translation ⁶

Examiner Signature	Date Considered
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kind Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov, MPEP 901.04 or follow the hyperlink from the title of the document to the intranet. ³Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST. 3). ⁴For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document. ⁵Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. ⁶Applicant is to indicate here if English language Translation is attached.



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STATEMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.97(e)

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

The undersigned hereby states, upon information and belief:

That each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement filed concurrently herewith was first cited in any communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of said Information Disclosure Statement.

Respectfully submitted,

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